26th September 1955]

Nileshwar Shakha Samithi

* 2493 *Q.*—SRI M. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state— 11-40 a.m.

(*a*) whether the Government have received a representation through the Chief Minister on 1st May 1955 from the President of the Nileshwar Shakha Samithi of the Kerala Hindi Prachar Sabha, appealing for financial help; and

(*b*) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: (*a*) & (*b*) The institution conducted by the Samithi has not been recognized by the Education Department and as such it is not eligible for any aid from State Funds. The President of the Samithi has been informed accordingly.

SRI M. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR: May I know why the institution has not been recognized by the Government?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: Because it does not satisfy the rules under which recognition is granted.

SRI M. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR: This institution has been functioning for the last ten years doing a lot of service and propagating Hindi. It has got recognition from the Hindi Prachar Sabha to conduct a Visharada Vidyala. Under these circumstances, will the Government come forward to recognise the institution?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: We will have to consider what method should be adopted for the propagation of the study of Hindi and in that respect perhaps the suggestion of the hon. Member may be considered.

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP: Though this Government may not give any frant and recognize the institution, the Central Government are granting funds even to non-official organizations for propagating Hindi. Though this Government may not be very enthusiastic about the study of Hindi will they at least use their good offices to get the aid of the Central Government for such organizations?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: Apart from the fact whether we are enthusiastic about Hindi or not, if the Samithi makes an application through this Government for aid from the Central Government, certainly it will be recommended for consideration.

SRI M. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR: Is it not a fact that this Government have given a building grant of Rs. 3,000 to this institution? Why have they given it when they are not recognizing the institution?

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THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : I am not aware of the building grant given to it. Perhaps it comes under certain other rules but the institution as an Hindi-teaching institution has not been recognized by the Education Department.

Rural Banks

* 2495 *Q.*—SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state how many rural banks have so far been sanctioned and started in the State and in which places?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : Twenty-five rural co-operative banks have been sanctioned for organization at select centres in the State. Fifteen such banks have been started as on 9th July 1955. A statement[a] showing the places where they have been started is placed on the table of the House.

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP : May I know whether any of the banks mentioned in the answer have actually started working and if so at what rate they are lending money t, the rural folks?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : Out of the 23 banks for which registration has been permitted, 18 banks have been registered and 5 are pending registration. Out of the 18 banks registered so far, 15 have started work as on 9th July 1955. The information, which the hon. Member wants, is not available with me just at present.

DR. K. B. MENON : Are the Government aware that a number of P.C.C. Societies which have huge reserves have applied for conversion to rural banks and that the departmental permission has not been granted. If it is expedited, their overhead charges could be saved and a better service could be rendered with the amount available. So, will the Government expedite the whole matter?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : Proposals for converting some of the P.C.C. Societies in Malabar into ...Rural Co-operative Banks have been received and they are under consideration.

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP : The Hon. Minister has stated that some are functioning but the crucial information as to the rate at which loans are advanced is lacking. People are not concerned with the type of organization but with the rate of interest. It has been stated that the Reserve Bank has granted so many crores of rupees to be disbursed to the rural folk at 1½ per cent interest. But, in fact, these banks are collecting 7½ per cent interest. Will the Hon. Minister see that the purpose of the bank is served by reducing the rate of interest so that the people may get real help? He may at least furnish the requisite information in writing.

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : Whatever information the hon Member wants can be supplied to him.

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[a] Printed as Appendix II on page 366 infra.